



**Frederick County  
Government  
Frederick, Maryland**

# *News Release*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 6, 2015

## **EXECUTIVE GARDNER TO JOIN MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### ***Will Discuss Legislative Priorities with County and State Leaders***

FREDERICK, MD – Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner will join other county elected officials, senators, delegates, and representatives in Cambridge, Md., for the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Winter Conference, January 7-9. Executive Gardner will serve as a panelist presenter during a session titled, “Leading Effectively on Smart Growth,” a moderator for a session titled, “Treacherous Shoals: Navigating the Murky Depths of Water Issues,” and will be sworn in as a member of the board of directors at the inaugural dinner on Thursday evening, January 8.

Executive Gardner stated, “As a former MACo president in 2007, I look forward to continuing my leadership role as the first Frederick County Executive on the MACo board of directors. This position will help me to stay connected with legislative issues of importance to the county during the upcoming state legislative session. Working closely with elected officials from across the state and the outstanding MACo staff, we look forward to achieving our legislative priorities and addressing budget issues before the General Assembly.”

MACo Executive Director Michael Sanderson commented, “County Executive Gardner has many great relationships with county officials from her years as a MACo member and leader. Having been so effective as MACo’s president during some of the most difficult of times gives her insight into the organization’s strengths, and we welcome her back and look forward to her active participation.”

The MACO conference is designed to provide county decision-makers and other participants with tools for more effective leadership and a clearer perspective on the issues that will be addressed during the upcoming Maryland General Assembly session. The ultimate result of attendance is more effective and efficient county government.

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The MACo Winter Conference will be at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay in Cambridge, Md. The theme of the conference is “The Road Ahead,” focusing on policy challenges for local government, building relationships with newly elected officials at the county, state, and legislative levels, and legislative priorities for the upcoming General Assembly session.

The MACo Winter Conference will feature over 20 educational break-out sessions, general sessions, meetings, and briefings, where attendees will learn about issues faced by different departments of county government. Sessions will cover topics such as infrastructure financing, economic development, highway user revenue and transportation, open government, public health threats, and how to effectively advocate before the Maryland General Assembly.

MACo is also offering a special morning of programming for newly elected county officials. The Newly Elected Officials Orientation, which takes place every four years following an election, is scheduled January 7, from 8:00 am – 1:00 pm. Frederick County Council participants include President Bud Otis, Vice President M.C. Keegan-Ayer, Tony Chmelik and Jessica Fitzwater. They will learn about the structure of local government, local officials’ role in the legislature, local government budgeting and the importance of building relationships. A mentoring session will be held, during which newly elected officials will have the opportunity to ask questions of and learn from current and veteran county elected officials.

Also being featured at the conference are courses from the Academy for Excellence in Local Governance certificate program, over 20 table-top exhibits of vendors offering cost-saving services and products to local governments, and several association meetings and government briefings. Educational and networking opportunities at the conference allow attendees to learn about issues facing local government and the resources and strategies for successfully meeting those challenges as they prepare for the upcoming legislative session.

The conference schedule, descriptions of the educational offerings, and a listing of confirmed exhibitors can be found at [www.mdcounties.org/MACoCon](http://www.mdcounties.org/MACoCon).

For more information about the Winter Conference, contact MACo Meetings & Events Director Virginia White at 410-269-0043 or via e-mail at [vwhite@mdcounties.org](mailto:vwhite@mdcounties.org).

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